

**Mrs K L Holmes  
Head of English  
Reading in Key Stage 3**

29 September 2010

Dear Parents

We all recognise the value of reading fiction and acknowledge the proven relationship between reading enjoyment and improved academic achievement. That's why, at Batley Grammar School, pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to develop a sound personal reading habit supported by one timetabled library lesson each week, our reading award scheme and a period of personal reading each day.

In the BGS Reading Challenge, students work towards award certificates in each academic year. Your child's personal reading must include books chosen from a year-specific reading list carefully prepared to encourage breadth and quality in reading choice. Details of the scheme and the titles recommended for your child during this school year are in your child's planner and we invite you to take a look!

At the beginning of each lesson, pupils complete a simple reading record to reflect their reading during the past week. The English staff and the librarian may use this as a basis for discussion of individual book choice and progress. Short term reading targets may be set and all pupils are encouraged to set aside a **minimum** of 15 minutes for personal reading each day. Facilities are available in the school library at lunchtime for quiet reading or, your child may prefer to set aside a special 'quiet' time at home for this.

Weekends and holidays are always a great time for reading and we support our students in maintaining a good reading habit as a valuable part of their interests outside school.

Please join us in encouraging your child to develop a positive reading habit. Our aim is more ambitious than that our young people should 'get hold of a good book', but that at least once this year, a book should get hold of them!

Thank you for your continued support.

*K L Holmes*  
Mrs K Holmes  
Head of English

*A Harknett*  
Mrs A Harknett  
Librarian